

Jelena Pasalic is a Health Program Specialist working with the Refugee Health Program at the Department of Health. She was recently the recipient of the Leadership Award for Outstanding Female presented at The Partnerships for New Americans: Refugee Service Providers Conference. Jelena, along with ten others from the Refugee community were presented awards at the Refugee Service Providers Conference April 11, 2003 for their outstanding contributions to the community.

Jelena and her husband lived in Mostar, Bosnia-Herzegovina before the war began in 1991. During the war their home was destroyed by fire. They left Mostar and fled to Croatia where they were processed as refugees. Jelena, her husband, two children and mother arrived in Salt Lake City in 1995. Soon after arrival, Jelena began working as a teacher's aid working for refugee children at Edison Elementary School. She then went to work helping other refugees at the International Rescue Committee (IRC). Because of her tireless and diligent efforts at IRC, Jelena was promoted to Health Program Coordinator. In 2001 she began working with the Department of Health, Bureau of Communicable Disease Control, Tuberculosis Control/Refugee Health Program. She now coordinates refugee healthcare issues at the state level. Jelena works closely with other refugee service providers to assure the best possible care for refugees. Jelena is an active member and leader in the local Bosnian community. Jelena is a passionate and caring employee who serves as a role model to both refugee and non-refugees alike.